

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 AGRE-00 OIC-02 /139 W

----- 046430

R 230937Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT MTN EEC SZ

SUBJ: COMMISSION OFFICIAL VIEWS ON MTN ISSUES

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REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 8952; B) BERN 2122

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POL/ECON COUNS SEPT 21, BALZ EBERHARD, DEPUTY TO AMBASSADOR DUNKEL IN THE GATT SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF COMMERCE, GAVE US AN INDICATION OF SWISS THINKING ON SEVERAL MTN ISSUES.

2. GENERAL. EBERHARD IS PERSUADED THAT NONE OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS WILL BE PREPARED TO BARGAIN SERIOUSLY UNTIL AFTER THE US ELECTIONS. IN THE INTERIM, WHICH EBERHARD THOUGHT WOULD EXTEND TO MAR, 1977, NEGOTIATORS COULD CONTINUE TO HAVE USEFUL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS, PREPARING THE WAY FOR SERIOUS BARGAINING, BUT IN HIS VIEW IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY ISSUES CAN BE SETTLED DEFINITELY.

3. DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT. APPARENTLY THE SWISS ARE SEARCHING FOR SOME GENERAL FORMULA WHICH COULD BE APPLIED TO TARIFFS AND NTB'S. EBERHARD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF INSISTING ON A FORM OF RECIPROCITY; THE RECIPIENTS OF DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT WOULD AGREE THAT ONCE CERTAIN OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS RELATED TO THEIR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OR ABILITY TO COMPETE HAD BEEN MET, THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. HE BELIEVES THAT A GENERAL APPROACH IS PREFERABLE TO WORKING THE PROBLEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. TARIFF FORMULA. EBERHARD THINKS THE SWISS WILL PRESENT A NEW FORMULA IN OCT. HE SHOWED US A GRAPH ON WHICH THE US AND EC PROPOSALS ARE PLOTTED, ALONG WITH SEVERAL POSSIBLE SWISS VARIATIONS ON A PROPOSAL THAT FALLS BETWEEN THOSE OF THE US AND THE EC. EBERHARD REMAINS CONVINCED (REFTEL B), THAT AGREEMENT ON A TARIFF FORMULA IS UNLIKELY EXCEPT AS A PART OF A PACKAGE COVERING EXCEPTIONS AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT.
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Message Attributes

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